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Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the flood affected people of Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): Tamil Nadu has witnessed recently a second spate of heavy and incessant rains in a row in a single year. The Tsunami devastated coastal districts have faced enormous loss once again. Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam are the worst hit. Rain floods the cauvery estuary areas in Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam and these areas alone find nearly 4.5 lakh and 3.7 lakh of people respectively rendered homeless. More than 3.7 hectares of cultivable lands in these two districts have been affected. Standing crops have submerged and perished. Further, 216 people have died in Tamil Nadu of which 40 people are from Thiruvarur, and 18 are from Nagapattinam. Loss of livestock is also heavy with 5,470 deaths most of them in these two agricultural districts. Government of Tamil Nadu has again rushed relief measures where even the first phase of work is still in progress as Central funds are yet to be released fully. Due to rain havoc in Tamil Nadu, 6,48,210 houses have been fully damaged. Also, 6,30,190 houses have been partly damaged. Tamil Nadu Government has asked for Rs. 3,789 crores for flood relief, and this financial assistance may be provided in full.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to come to the rescue of these hapless people through the Natural Disaster Management Mechanism and through the Union Food and Agricultural Ministry. Centre must rush help on a war-footing. Union Government must also immediately help the State Government to construct houses under Rural Development, and Rural Housing Schemes waiving off relevant rules to help even the small and marginal farmers who have also suffered along with the poor. I urge upon the Union Government to allocate funds for constructing at least 50,000 houses immediately in Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam, where the loss is heavy.